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Europe
Nation

Le Monde runs a piece called 'The real reasons for George Bush's war'. It quotes the New York Times as saying - 'this is a war of choice not

Of course, the debate on the alleged legality, or illegality, of this war. Resolution 1441, adopted last November by the United Nations, demands disarmament of Iraq by weapons inspections. The resolution does not implicitly evoke war, nor does it call for the defeat of Saddam's regime. International law has only a relative value: it can do nothing against force...

warns that the truth of the war is revealed by neither.

"The only thing that is certain," it says, "is that there are three wars and three realities: the official US army and CNN war/reality; the Arab TV channel war/reality; and then above all the war/reality of the population and of soldiers in Iraq."

In a commentary entitled "War of words at home" Berlin's *Die Welt* criticises the German media's coverage. The headlines such as "Baghdad's burning", "Bombing terror for freedom" and "Bush plays with fire", "announce a planned break with civilization before it is even remotely possible to arrive at a reliable view of what is really happening in Iraq", it says.

"Until there is proof to the contrary," it says, "we have to believe the protestations by the most civilized fighting force on earth that it knows what it is doing and that it is doing what it is saying: avoiding civilian casualties, sparing the infrastructure, defeating a terrible regime and not the people under its yoke."

Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* describes the protests as "impressive" and says they are a sign of growing mistrust of the United States. "The morality and legitimacy of this war may be judged differently once the regime of the Iraqi dictator has collapsed and the nature of his rule comes to light," the paper says,

bloody."

But Belgium's *De Standaard* looks ahead. It warns against "a position of moral purity", which it says only hampers preparations for the post-war period. "In the service of peace, the task is not to climb as high an ethical mountain as possible in order to look down from there on the miscreants who use violence."

"When no more American planes fly over our country and no more military convoys embark in Antwerp? Or when the last American diplomat has left our territory? Or when nobody buys products made in the USA any more? Or when?," the paper asks.

France's *Liberation* notes that media coverage of the growing US and British casualty toll is posing a problem for the leaders of the two countries. "On the fourth day, the war - the real one - is inviting itself via the TV screens into American and British living rooms," the paper says.

Switzerland's *Tribune De Geneve* says "the face of the war changed" when the images of killed Iraqi civilians and the bodies of American soldiers and prisoners of war were shown on Iraqi TV on Sunday. "This is how the illusion of a clean, rapid and surgical war - a 'Six-Day War' of the 21st century - vanished into thin air," it says. "The United States is in fact caught in a fearsome

common enemy was the creation of Baghdad. From both sides of the Atlantic, the media had harsh words for each of the presidents. Bush the Orator, Bush the simple-minded,

suffered acute damage to some

